

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 1, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 26 and canceled claim 20 without prejudice and added new claims 29 through 31. Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments to the claims are supported by the Application as originally filed and do not contain any new matter. Therefore, the office action will be discussed in terms of the claims as amended.

The Examiner has objected to claim 1 as containing certain informalities. In view of the amendments to claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is not now objectionable.

The Examiner has objected to claims 1, 2, 11-14, 20, 24 and 26-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and has suggested amendments to the claims. Applicant has essentially adopted the amendments to the claims suggested by the Examiner and further amended the other claims to clarify the language therein and respectfully submits that claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14, 24, 26, 27 and 28 comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner has objected to claims 1, 11, 12, 20, 24 and 26-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Tsubooka, et al., in view of Wu, et al., stating that Tsubooka discloses all the present invention except for a connecting/disconnecting mechanism provided on the pair of belts for connecting and disconnecting an end of each of the belts together; Wu teaches goggles with a pair of belts having connecting/disconnecting mechanism 13 of the hook type; and it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Tsubooka in view of the teachings of Wu.

In reply to this rejection, Applicant has carefully reviewed Tsubooka and respectfully submits that in Tsubooka is not provided a connecting/disconnecting mechanism, as is admitted by the examiner. In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that the fastening mechanism of Tsubooka is more complicated than Applicant's and in particular requires an elastic bent piece with a V-shaped section and a springy property and a V-shaped recess into which the V-shaped coupling member is inserted. Still further, each V-shaped recess contains two projections and

the V-shaped section coupling member contains two holes. In contrast thereto, as claimed by Applicant's claims, Applicant's invention utilizes a single projection and a single hole. In addition, the belt length adjustment is provided on the coupling member of the fastening mechanism of Tsubooka. In contrast thereto, in Applicant's invention, the length adjusting mechanism for the belts is provided on the connecting/disconnecting mechanism. Still further, Applicant respectfully submits that the fastening mechanism of Tsubooka is separate from the belts and therefore Tsubooka does not teach that each of the belts has a hard portion at the first end and a soft portion at the second end, as is required by Applicant's invention.

In addition, Applicant has carefully reviewed Wu, et al. and respectfully submits that in Wu is provided a Velcro type mechanism at 13 and not a connecting/disconnecting mechanism in the sense of Applicant's invention which requires a buckle type or hook type. Still further, Wu et al. does not disclose a means for adjusting the length of the belts connected to the connecting/disconnecting mechanism.

In view of the above, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that not only is the combination suggested by the examiner not Applicant's invention, but also the combination suggested by the Examiner would not have been suggested to one of ordinary skill in the art. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 11, 12, 24, 26, 27 and 28 through 31 are not obvious over Tsubooka in view of Wu.

The Examiner has objected to the claims 2, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Tsubooka in view of Wu and further in view of Lutz, stating that the combination of Tsubooka and Wu discloses all of Applicant's invention except that the back portion of the belt that fits to the user's occipital region is made wider than the side portions; Lutz teaches goggles with a strap 16 having a back portion 32 made wider than the side portions and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the combination of Tsubooka and Wu in view of the teachings of Lutz.

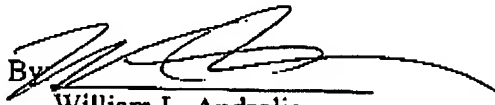
In reply to this rejection, Applicant would like to incorporate by reference his comments above concerning Applicant's invention, Tsubooka and Wu. In addition, Applicant has carefully reviewed Lutz and respectfully submits that while Lutz may disclose a wider portion of the belt in the back of the head, Lutz teaches that the belt length adjustment device is provided at the end of the belt coupled to the eye cups and does not disclose a connecting/disconnecting mechanism with an adjusting mechanism provided at the other end of the belts.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that not only is the combination suggested by the Examiner not Applicant's invention, but also the combination suggested by the Examiner would not be suggested to one of ordinary skill in the art. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims 13 and 14 are not obvious over Tsubooka in view of Wu and further in view of Lutz.


In view of the above, therefore, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered, favorably considered and the case passed to issue.

Please charge any additional costs incurred by or in order to implement this Amendment or required by any requests for extensions of time to QUINN EMANUEL DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 50-4367.

Respectfully submitted,

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